

On page 18, please replace the paragraph starting on line 3 with the following paragraph:

For example systems consistent with the present invention provide information on low cost travel alternatives by presenting consumers with options for selecting alternate airports when originating or arriving at an alternate airport can save money, For example, travelers flying in and out of Jefferson City, MO can save money by driving 130 miles to Kansas City MO. Another travel alternative presented may be alternate lodging. Sometimes travelers can save money by picking an alternate hotel; systems consistent with the present invention find lower-priced (but similar) accommodations within 1 or 2 miles of a traveler's original planned hotel or appointment. Travel packages offer another source of low cost travel alternatives. Travelers needing air, car, and lodging can sometimes qualify for existing prepackaged deals available in such sources as the SABER Tour guide offered by The SABER Group, Inc. Additionally, splitting tickets may offer cost savings in travel. For example a traveler can save money by converting a ticket with a connecting itinerary into two tickets, each having one segment of the original itinerary. To illustrate further, the H fare from Jefferson City MO to San Francisco might be sold out, but still available for Jefferson City MO to St. Louis and St. Louis to San Francisco.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 9, 20 and 31, amend claims 1, 4, 5, 10-12, 15, 16, 21-23, 26-30, 32-36 and add new claims 37-43 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

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receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the analyzing step includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes assigning geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

10. (Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

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generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,  
wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and  
wherein the analyzing step includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include  
travel between the originating location and a destination, and wherein the travel packages are  
pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

11. (Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated  
with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:  
receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;  
analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to  
the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;  
determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;  
determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;  
generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations;  
sending at least one price-to-beat request to a plurality of service providers reflecting  
information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the  
travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative  
itineraries;  
receiving a response from each of the service providers with information on a service  
provider travel itinerary and a value of the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel  
itinerary from each of the service providers may be the same or comparable, according to each  
respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and generating a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

12. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination; and

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations.

15. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the analyzing step includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

16. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the receiving step includes assigning geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

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21. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel; and

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and wherein the analyzing step includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include travel between the originating location and a destination, and wherein the travel packages are pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

22. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;

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sending at least one price-to-beat request to a plurality of service providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries;

receiving a response from each of the service providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from each of the service providers may be the same or comparable, according to each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the values of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and  
generating a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

23. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination; and

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination.

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26. (Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes locating any alternate lodging that is within the proximity tolerances.

27. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the buyer interface assigns geographical coordinates for each of the originating location and the destination.

28. (Amended) The computer system of claim 27, wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes generating a set of locations with coordinates located within a predetermined range of the destination based on information from a geographical coordinates database.

29. (Amended) The computer system of claim 28, wherein generating a set of locations includes reducing the range when a number of locations in the set exceeds a predetermined number.

30. (Amended) The computer system of claim 28, wherein generating a set of locations includes increasing the range when a number of locations in the set is smaller than a predetermined number.

32. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary; and

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a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein the request includes the name of an originating location and a destination, and wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes locating any predetermined travel packages that include travel between the originating location and a destination, and wherein the travel packages are pre-configured packages based on prior negotiations with providers of travel resources.

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33. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

a trader interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing a response from a trader with information on a trader travel itinerary and a value of the trader travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from the trader interface may be the same or comparable, according to the trader, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries,

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wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the values of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the response from the trader and generate a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

34. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

a supplier interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing responses from a plurality of service providers with information on service provider travel itineraries and respective values of the service provider travel itineraries, wherein each of the travel itineraries from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries,

wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the values of the travel itinerary specified in the requests and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from the service providers and generate a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration.

35. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, including a supplier interface for receiving availability price requests from the server and for providing availability price responses

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from a plurality of service providers with information on service provider travel itineraries and respective values of the service provider travel itineraries, wherein each of the travel itineraries from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries.

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36. (Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

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an interface means for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination; and

a serving means for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations,

wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination.

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37. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

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38. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

39. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

40. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

41. (New) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

42. (New) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

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